

**Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks for Unveiling of President  
Reagan Statue**

November 21, 2011

On behalf of the President of the United States, and on behalf of all Americans, thank you to the people of Poland.

Thank you for this fitting tribute to a great American patriot, President Ronald Reagan. Thank you for this show of solidarity between our two great nations, who are united by our devotion to democracy and commitment to our own freedom and the freedom of others.

Jesteśmy tu, by uhonorować dzieło Ronalda Reagana, amerykańskiego prezydenta, który zapisał się w historii świata. Jesteśmy w mieście pełnym historii, razem z ludźmi, którzy mieli odwagę tworzyć historię własnego kraju.

We are here today to honor the legacy of Ronald Reagan. We honor the history made by President Reagan, in a city filled with history. In the presence of people who made this history.

Thank you President Walesa for being here. We are fortunate that these two great men, Lech Walesa and Ronald Reagan, shared the world stage and changed history.

We are joined by many other heroes of Poland's fight for freedom. Thank you Minister Sikorski and Mayor Gronkiewicz-Waltz for your show of support today.

We have come together to appreciate this beautiful and powerful work of art by sculptor Władysław Dudek. I think President Reagan would be pleased that the financing for this statue was generated privately, by the Ronald Reagan Foundation in Poland, and the tireless efforts of Janusz Dorosiewicz.

And I am proud to host my fellow Americans, senior members of the U.S. Congress, Representatives Dreier, Whitfield, and Payne. They are men who have devoted their working lives to promoting democracy and opportunity for the citizens of their own country, and for the people of the world.

Poland's good friend and my former boss, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, used to joke that she had all her partisan instincts surgically removed when she became Secretary of State. On a day like today, we put aside our differences, because we know that devotion to democracy and dedication to freedom knows no party and knows no borders.

Ronald Reagan inspired Poles and the world on behalf of Poles. In his 1981 Christmas address to America, he said: "There is a spirit of solidarity abroad in the world tonight that no physical force can crush. In factories, farms, and schools, in cities and towns around the globe, we the people of the Free World stand as one with our Polish brothers and sisters." He backed his words with strong actions, imposing economic sanctions on the communist regime after the imposition of martial law, and rallied Americans to light candles in solidarity with the Polish people.

The man who implored Mr. Gorbachev to “tear down that wall,” showed that speaking the truth does not threaten peace and freedom, but advances their cause. In his words and deeds, Ronald Reagan showed that freedom is not free, but when defended and nurtured, it pays dividends.

I think President Reagan would be very proud of our accomplishments, America and Poland today. We are working together to spread democracy from Belarus to Benghazi. And next year we will be advancing his dream of transatlantic alliance when American boots on the ground in Poland will arrive in Poland.

In signing the law that established the Reagan centennial commission, President Obama said of the 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, that President Reagan's sense of confidence and optimism, "allowed him to work with leaders of all political persuasions to advance the cause of freedom, democracy and security around the world."

And now it is my great privilege to read a statement by President Barack Obama to mark the occasion of the unveiling of the statute of Ronald Reagan in Warsaw.

I send greetings to all those gathered to celebrate the life and work of President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan had a gift for inspiring hope in people facing difficult circumstances. He helped restore a sense of optimism in America during a period of economic and global challenges, and did the same for the Polish people through his unflinching support for the Solidarity movement.

The location of this monument is a fitting reminder of the close ties between the American and Polish people, and a tribute to the strong support the United States gave Poland during its long struggle to free itself from communist rule. Poland's transformation into a prosperous democratic nation, a committed NATO ally, and a leading member of the European Union is an inspiration to the world. The United States values its long friendship with Poland and looks forward to continued cooperation as our nations work together to confront the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As you celebrate this special occasion, I wish you all the best.